

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action mailed October 19, 2007, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of all rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, which are believed to place the application in immediate condition for allowance. Claims 11-46 are currently allowed. Claims 14, 22, 31, 39, 45 and 46 are currently amended. Claims 1-3 and 5-10 were previously canceled. Claims 4, 15, 25, 32 and 42 have been canceled. Claims 11-14, 16-24, 26-31, 33-41 and 43-46 are currently pending.

I. Allowed Claims

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication on page 4 of the Office Action that claims 11-14, 16-24, 26-31, 33-41, 43, and 44 are allowed.

II. Drawings

The drawings are objected to for allegedly failing to show each feature of the invention specified in claims 25 and 42. Claims 25 and 42 have been canceled. Thus, the objection is overcome.

III. The Rejection of Claims 15, 25, 32, 42, 45 and 46 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 15, 25, 32, 42, 45 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 111, second paragraph as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which application regards as the invention.

Claims 15, 25, 32 and 42 have been canceled.

Claims 45 and 46 have been amended to remove “the first tubular member” from the claim. Thus, the rejection is overcome.

IV. The Anticipation Rejection of Claim 4 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,385,294 (“*Lowy*”). Particularly, the Examiner contends that *Lowy* discloses each and every element recited in these claims. While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the assertions of the Examiner, Applicant has canceled claim 4, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously requested. In order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

While this Amendment and Response is believed to be timely, in the event that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office requires any additional fee to enter and/or consider this Amendment and Response, or to prevent abandonment of the present application, please charge such fee to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-2613 (Order No. 38841.00002.UTL).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 9, 2008

By:



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